

**THREE NEW RECORDS OF PROSOBRANCHI: (Gastropoda)
FROM NORTHWEST
ARABIAN GULF**

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SUMMARY

Three gastropod species were recorded for the first time from the northwest Arabian Gulf. These were *Mitra mitra* (Linnaeus, 1750), *Natica vitellus* (Linnaeus 1759), *Monodonta vermiculata* (Fisher, 1840). Diagnosis, figures and some comments on the distribution were provided.

INTRODUCTION

Mollusca form an important invertebrate group in the animal kingdom. This large phylum, second only to the Arthropoda (insects) in numbers of species, is divided into seven classes. The gastropoda numbers some 90 000 species and includes land and freshwater snails and slugs as well as all marine snails (Jones, 1986). Little attention had been previously devoted to the mollusca of Iraq, Ahmed (1975) had recorded 31 species of Gastropoda and 3 species of Scahopoda and 18 species of Bivalva.

However Jones (1986) had published a book about sea shores of Kuwait and the Arabian Gulf and listed 41 species of Gastropoda. Donland and Bosch (1982) had listed 272 species of Gastropoda from Omani's water. The present work is a part of the project of the survey of Iraqi marine fishery and 3 gastropod species were recognized which were not recorded before.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Specimens were collected from Khor Al-umai northwest Arabian Gulf during the period from February 1999 to April 2000. All specimens of this gastropods species were found in stomachs of 158 starfish (*Astropectin polycantus*) while food habit of the latter was in progress.

The isolated specimen had been preserved in a 5 % formalin. The lengths and width were measured to the nearest 0.1 mm using plastic vernier calipers. Gastropods species were identified according to Emerson and Jacobson (1976) moreover informations on local gastropoda of the Arabian Gulf and that of Oman (Donland and Bosch, 1982) were used to confirm the identification of the species.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Family: Mitridae

Mitra mitra

Description: **Length:** 10-15 mm
 Width : 2 - 3 mm
 NO. : 5

Shell are generally spindle shape, with high spire, those in our area are quite small. The largest, most colourful. *Mitra mitra* has a series of plica or folds on the columellae.

Occurrence :

The species occurred at Khor Al-umai Northwest Arabian Gulf.

Distribution:

It is one of Indo-pacific species it is found in the Mediterranean and adjacent Atlantic. It inhabits the deeper algal zone along shores and also inhabits sponges. There are many species in worm water. Donland and Bosch (1982) found *Mitra mitra* in shallow water in sandy area of Oman shores. This species were previously recorded in the eastern pacific in the Galapagos Island (Sphion, 1976, Emerson, 1978). This species had not been listed by Jones (1986) in Kuwait waters.

Family : Naticadia
Natica vitellus

Description: **Length :** 4 – 5 mm
 Width : 7 – 7.5 mm
 No. : 3

Natica vitellus : Solid globular low – spired shell with deep umbilicus. The basic of – white colour is patterned with orange brown spiral bands and axial streaks. At the Apex the spiral band converge to deep purple dot. Aperture white, Operculum calcareous, closing to aperture (Donland and Bosch 1982).

Distribution :

It is a carnivorous snail found in all seas, it inhabits soft substrate the species is distributed from southern Europe to Indo-pacific region. (Donland and Bosch 1982) listed in Oman shores.

Family : Trochidae (Top shells)
Monodonta vermiculata

Description : **Length :** 2 – 4 mm
 Width : 6 - 6.5 mm
 No. : 10

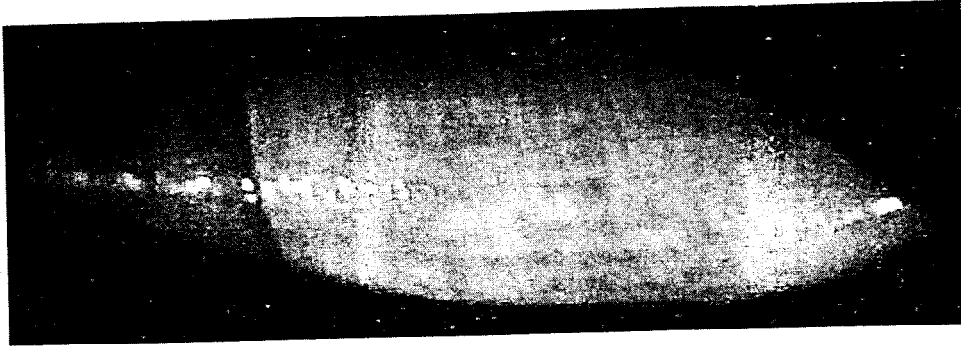
Small shell, shaped like an inverted top, it is *Monodonta dama*, and there is no umbilicus, inner lip finely grooved. Columella has a longitudinal curved groove.

Occurrence :

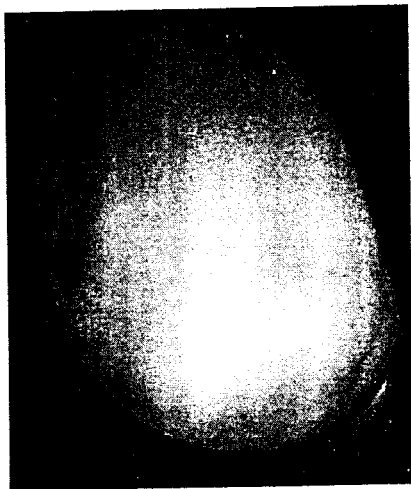
The present species are common in Khor – Al-umai Northwest Arabian Gulf.

Distribution:

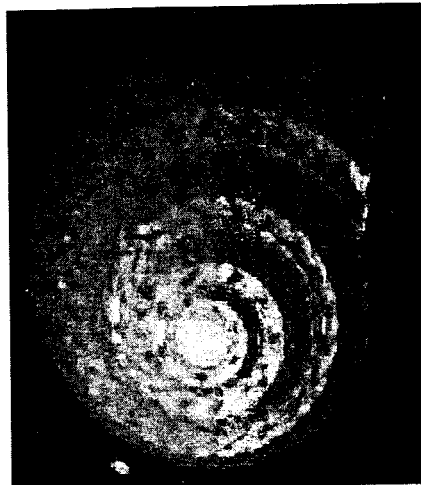
Top shell are herbivorous and generally inhabit hard substrate where they found their food and most occurred in Warmer seas. Some cold water species also exist (Emerson and Jacobson 1976). Donland and Bosch (1982) listed this species in Oman waters.



(A)



(B)



(C)

Fig. 1 Three new records gastropods species from Northwest Arabian Gulf.

(A): *Mitra mitra*

(B): *Natica vitellus*

(C): *Monodunta vermiculata*

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تسجيل جديد لثلاثة أنواع من بطنية القدم في شمال غرب

الخليج العربي

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الخلاصة

سجلت ثلاثة أنواع من بطنية القدم لأول مرة في شمال غرب الخليج العربي، وهي *Mitra mitra* (Linnaeus, 1750) و *Natica vitellus* (Linneus 1759) و *Monodunta Vermiculata* (Fisher, 1840) وقد ذكرت بعض الصفات التشخيصية والرسوم وبعض الملاحظات عن توزيع كل نوع.